

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-16 canceled

17. (currently amended) A load securing device comprising:

a) a body having a longitudinal axis and a load bearing surface extending along the longitudinal axis, the body comprising [[over]] first and second body portions,

respectively;

b) at least one rib running along a length of the body and extending in a direction generally perpendicular parallel to each of the load bearing surface[[s]] of the first and second body portions; and

c) a notch formed between the first and second body portions, the notch adapted to engage a ring so that the ring is secured to the body between the first and second portions of the body, the ring adapted to attach to one end of a flexible member for securing a load using the load bearing surface[[s]].

18. (Original) The device of claim 17, wherein the notch divides the body so that the first body portion is more than half a length of the body.

19. (Original) The device of claim 17, wherein the body is elongated.

20. (withdrawn) The device of claim 17, wherein the load bearing surface of the first portion of the body has a width less than a width the load bearing surface of the second portion, and a first segment of the at least one rib aligned with the first portion

has a width less than a width of a second segment of the at least one rib aligned with the second portion, the differences in width creating a stop between the first and second portions and allowing the ring to slide over the first portion and first segment and reach the notch, the stop limiting rotation of the ring.

21. (withdrawn) The device of claim 20, wherein one or more of the first opening, the second opening and the at least one rib include openings therein.

22. (original) The device of claim 17, wherein the load bearing surface includes one or more protrusions to increase grabbing power of the surface when contacting cargo.

23. (currently amended) A load securing device comprising:

a) a body having a longitudinal axis and a load bearing surface extending along the longitudinal axis, the body comprising first and second body portions;

b) at least one rib running along a length of the body and extending in a direction generally perpendicular to the load bearing surface

~~a body having load bearing surfaces extending over first and second body portions,~~

~~b) at least one rib running along a length of the body and extending in a direction generally parallel to each of the load bearing surfaces of the first and second body portions; and~~

c) means for securing a ring between the first and second body portions, the ring adapted to attach to one end of a flexible member for securing loads using the load bearing surface[[s]].